

INTRODUCTION

There is a growing interest within local governments in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. GIS technology has a wide range of potential applications at the local government level. To achieve the maximum, long-term return on public investments in this technology, it is important that these systems and the related data are developed with multiple applications in mind. To assist local governments to sort through the many choices and to make wise investment decisions related to this technology, the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee created an Advisory Committee on Standards for Multipurpose Land Information Systems.

The Advisory Committee was charged with the development of guidelines for local governments to consider as they invest in multipurpose land information systems. To increase the likelihood that the resultant guidelines would provide a solid basis for multipurpose local government GIS, the Advisory Committee membership included a mix of professionals active in state, county and city government agencies and geographically based across Nebraska. This *Nebraska Guidebook for Local Government Multipurpose Land Information Systems* is a working draft of the Advisory Committee's efforts. Because many local government GIS systems have the maintenance of land ownership records and maps as one of their primary foci, the term land information systems (LIS) is commonly applied to these systems.

Process for Developing this Nebraska Guidebook. The specific land record modernization recommendations and related background material in this guidebook were written with the ultimate goal of providing useful information and guidelines for local government officials as they consider and plan for the development of a GIS-based multipurpose land information system. There is little in the document that is original. An attempt has been made to summarize and glean from the available literature, the key points or issues related to successful land record modernization efforts and to the statewide integration of those efforts, and finally to formulate recommendations or guidelines in those areas.

These guidelines are a work in progress, in the sense that feedback and suggestions for improvement are encouraged. It is the intent of the Advisory Committee to serve as the stimulus and facilitator of an on-going collaborative process to develop these guidelines or standards. The document has been packaged in a form that will hopefully serve to facilitate discussion, feedback, modification and eventual endorsement from the various groups whose input and support will be needed for these efforts to be effective.

This document has been extensively footnoted, both to provide the ultimate users with the sources for further information, and in some cases to demonstrate the broad cross-section of credible support for certain recommendations which may require substantial investments to accomplish. In an attempt to further facilitate and focus the discussion and feedback, those areas that are believed to be key points or recommended guidelines, have been printed in ***bold italics type*** and inset from the rest of the text.

The section-by-section development of these guidelines is another example of how the guidelines are still a work in progress. To organize its efforts, the Advisory Committee developed a working outline of what the table of contents of a comprehensive guidebook to assist local governments in this area might include (*see Table of Contents page*). It is likely, that in the process of review, these sections will be revised and/or additional areas may also be identified that should be considered.

Because of its limited resources, the Advisory Committee felt the need to prioritize its work. Based on that prioritization, the Advisory Committee made an initial commitment to develop drafts of sections (III. - VI.). These sections were given a high priority primarily because they are likely to include the key foundation guidelines or standards that a local government should consider in developing a solid multipurpose land information system. Databases developed in harmony with the guidelines or standards

included in these sections are also likely to be databases that can be integrated with similar databases developed in adjacent jurisdictions. As these key sections are completed, the Advisory Committee will review the need for and resources available to undertake the other sections.

The Advisory Committee submits each draft section to the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee for review and possible modification, prior to consideration for adoption as final guidelines or standards. To speed up the review process, during the same time period these draft sections are also made available to other interested parties for review and written comment. Based on this feedback, the Advisory Committee will revise the draft sections and guidelines and re-submit them to the GIS Steering Committee for consideration for final adoption. Until a section has been endorsed by the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee, it will be clearly marked as a DRAFT at the bottom of the page. Adoption of a particular section by the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee is not meant to imply that it will not change. Hopefully, as resources are available on-going efforts will be made to revise and update sections to reflect the changing technology and experiences in its local government application. Revision of a given section will be noted by version dates, which are also noted at the bottom of each page.

To make these guidelines most effective, it is hoped that other public entities and organizations will also review and consider endorsement of the guidelines.

This is a working document circulated for feedback and comment. To provide feedback, please contact Larry K. Zink, Coordinator, Nebraska GIS Steering Committee, P.O. Box 95045, Lincoln, NE 68509, 402-471-3206, lzink@notes.state.ne.us.

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